

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1-16 are rejected. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. As a result of this response, claims 1-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Amendment

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the wireless communication means. Support for the amendment can be found, at least, at page 3, lines 16-23 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Claim 11 has been amended to recite an independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 12-15 as being unpatentable over Crowe et al. (5,671,362) in view of Taylor (5,727,693). The Examiner asserted that Cowe teaches “a repository (Figure 1, element 10), for a plurality of objects (Figure 2, element 30), comprising: a body for supporting simultaneously a plurality of objects (Col. line 9-12); wireless communication means for communicating with at least one of the plurality of objects (col. line 9-12); wireless communication means for communicating with at least one of the plurality of objects (Col 5, line 7-12, Col 5, line 37-44); and a user interface responsive to the wireless communication means for providing information to a user (Col 5, line 27-36), except for a repository comprising a plurality of objects including a mobile phone.” The Examiner further asserted that Taylor “teaches a repository (pager holder) comprising a plurality of objects including a mobile phone (Col. 1, line 55-64)” and that “Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art ... to use the teaching of a repository comprising a plurality of objects including a mobile phone, as taught by Taylor, in the Cowe’s device in order to provide a pager holder which is compactly designed for efficient storage of pager and other objects”.

Applicants assert that claim 1, as presently amended, is in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that neither Cowe nor Taylor, taken individually or in combination, such a combination neither suggested nor deemed

appropriate, teach or otherwise disclose a wireless communication means for transferring data from an object or a user interface for providing the transferred data to a user as claimed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A repository, for a plurality of objects, comprising:
 - a body for supporting simultaneously a plurality of objects including a mobile phone and at least one other object;
 - wireless communication means for communicating with at least one of the plurality of objects to transfer data therefrom; and
 - a user interface responsive to the wireless communication means for providing information to a user received in the transferred data.

Cowe discloses, generally, an inventory monitoring system that automatically senses the presence of product items stored in a shelf unit at the point of storage. When a new inventory item or items are placed on the shelf unit, a vendor utilizes a barcode scanner linked to a terminal 38 to input the product data associated with the item to the shelf unit 10. As can be seen from Figs. 1 and 2, the system comprises a plurality of electronic shelf units 10 that can communicate with a shelf supervisory unit 14 via infrared communication. The shelf supervisory unit 14 sends requests for inventory information to the shelf units 10. The shelf units 10 transmit the inventory information to the shelf supervisory unit 14. Each shelf unit 10 comprises a plurality of sensors 33 to provide a map of products on the shelf unit. By comparing the map of the shelf unit 10 after a product has been moved, with a map of the shelf unit 10 before the product was moved, the movement of product items can be detected.

As Cowe discloses (col. 8, lines 48-52), the sensors 33 on the shelf unit 10 "may be optical, piezoelectric or capacitive, or may employ any other physical principle permitting detection of movement of a product item 30 out of an at-rest storage position on shelf unit 20." The disclosed sensors detect only the presence of a product item. The sensors do not communicate with the product items.

Therefore, Cowe fails to disclose “wireless communication means for communicating with at least one of the plurality of objects to transfer data therefrom” as recited in claim 1.

Cowe further discloses, generally, that the electronics unit 34 provides user access to the products on the shelf unit. Electronics unit 34 contains a keypad 58 for data entry, a card slot 54 for receiving an identification card 56, and infrared antenna 36. Infrared antenna 36 communicates with the shelf supervisory unit 14 to provide inventory information. The shelf supervisory unit 14 provides the inventory information to a vendor computer 18. As is evident, the inventory information is not information transferred from one of the objects as claimed, but rather is formed of information sent from the electronics unit to the shelf supervisory unit.

As a result, Cowe does not disclose a repository comprising “a user interface responsive to the wireless communication means for providing information to a user received in the transferred data” as recited in claim 1.

Applicants further disagree with the Examiner’s assertion concerning the combination of Cowe and Taylor, such a combination neither suggested nor deemed appropriate. Taylor discloses, generally, a wall mounted pager holding device. As illustrated in Fig. 3, cellular phone 8 and two pagers 4 engage slots 22 for support. As such, Taylor discloses a wall mounted shelf with slots for engaging one or more mobile phones.

As is evident, neither Cowe nor Taylor provide a motivation to combine the teachings of one with the other. Specifically, Cowe neither teaches nor suggests a combination with art disclosing a shelf having slots for supporting pagers and cell phones. There is no suggestion that Cowe should be modified to monitor the temporary storage of a user’s mobile phone. Conversely, Taylor neither teaches nor suggests a combination with art disclosing inventory management of objects upon a shelf.

In addition, were the teachings of Cowe and Taylor to be combined, such a combination neither suggested nor deemed appropriate , the combination would still not fall within the scope of the claimed invention. As noted above Cowe fails to teach or

otherwise disclose a wireless communication means for transferring data from an object or a user interface for providing the transferred data to a user as claimed. Taylor similarly fails to teach these elements of claim 1. As neither Cowe nor Taylor individually teach these elements of claim 1, their combination likewise fails to teach these elements. For the above noted reasons, claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance. As all of claims 2-10 and 12-15 depend on claim 1, they are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 as unpatentable over Crowe et al. in view of Taylor in further view of Nagaoka (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020184112). The Examiner asserted that Nagaoka teaches “a repository comprising a display for displaying information received from the mobile phone (Paragraph 0050 and 0051).”

Nagaoka discloses, in general, a sale notice system. A user of a portable communication terminal 2A transmits a purchase request to the sale notice device 3 along with payment and a place for delivery. The sale notice device 3 confirms purchase with a settlement organisation device 41 and the goods are transported from the goods provider 5, to the depository 6 (place for delivery). Receipt information is sent to a mobile communication terminal 2B when the goods are transported to the depository 6. By displaying the receipt information on the mobile terminal 2B to a person at the depository 6, a user B can collect the purchased goods.

Claim 11 recites the “repository comprising a display for displaying information received from the mobile phone”. As noted above, according to Nagaoka, it is the user’s mobile phone that displays the receipt information. The Examiner is in error when asserting that Nagaoka discloses “displaying information received **from** the mobile telephone”. Therefore, Nagaoka does not disclose or suggest a repository comprising “... a display for displaying information received from the mobile phone” as recited in claim 11. As Nagaoka likewise fails to disclose a wireless communication means for transferring data from an object or a user interface for providing the transferred data to a user as discussed above, the combination of Cowe, Taylor, and Nagaoka, such a combination neither suggested nor deemed appropriate, likewise fails to teach these elements. Claim 11 is therefore in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claim 16 as being unpatentable over Cowe et al. in view of Taylor and further in view of Fan (6,639,382). The Examiner asserted that Cowe and Taylor “teach all the claimed elements in claim 16, except for a repository comprising charging circuitry, within the body, for recharging a mobile telephone” but that Fan teaches this element.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertions regarding the teachings of Fan. Fan discloses, in general, a mobile phone charger with a sensing means for detecting when the ambient conditions are dark and LEDs 151 that are operable when dark conditions are sensed. Fan does not teach or otherwise disclose, at the Examiner’s citation or elsewhere, “charging circuitry, within the body, for recharging a mobile telephone” as recited in claim 16. As both Cowe and Taylor likewise fail to teach this element, the combination of Cowe, Taylor and Fan, such a combination neither suggested nor deemed appropriate,e likewise fails to teach this element. For this reason alone, claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

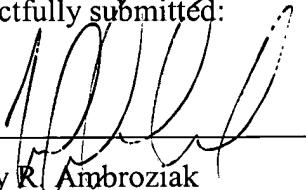
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Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2005

It is submitted that the claims herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted:


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